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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

44989 7590 07/03/2008

HARRITY SNYDER, LLP
11350 Random Hills Road
SUITE 600
FAIRFAX, VA 22030

EXAMINER

PHAM, KHANH B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2166

DATE MAILED: 07/03/2008

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/607,927 | 06/27/2003 | Vineet Gupta | 0026-0153 | 8649 |

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING PREFERRED COUNTRY BIASING OF SEARCH RESULTS

| APPLN. TYPE | SMALL ENTITY | ISSUE FEE DUE | PUBLICATION FEE DUE | PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE | TOTAL FEE(S) DUE | DATE DUE |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------|
| nonprovisional | NO | \$1440 | \$300 | \$0 | \$1740 | 10/03/2008 |

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail** **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

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|--------------------|
| (Depositor's name) |
| (Signature) |
| (Date) |

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TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING PREFERRED COUNTRY BIASING OF SEARCH RESULTS

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|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------|
| nonprovisional | NO | \$1440 | \$300 | \$0 | \$1740 | 10/03/2008 |

| EXAMINER | ART UNIT | CLASS-SUBCLASS |
|---------------|----------|----------------|
| PHAM, KHANH B | 2166 | 707-007000 |

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
 (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. **Change in Entity Status** (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.**

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EXAMINER

PHAM, KIMNH B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

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Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 382 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 382 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/607,927

Examiner

Khanh B. Pham

Applicant(s)

GUPTA ET AL.

Art Unit

2166

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 4/14/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 12, 18-22, 25, 29-33, 35-40, 42, 45-50, 53-58, 61, 64-69, 72-76, 79, 90 (Renumbered as 1-45).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/4/08
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Paul Harrity, Applicant's representative, on June 23, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claims **12, 25, 39, 42, 61, 69, and 90** have been amended as follows:

12. (currently amended) A method, comprising:
- receiving a search query from a user;
 - performing a search based on the search query to identify search results from a plurality of search result countries;
 - identifying a particular country for the search results based on interface characteristics and Internet protocol (IP) characteristics,
 - where the interface characteristics include information from the search query and information from a user interface via which the search query is received, and

where the IP characteristics include information associated with a location from which the search query was sent;
ordering the search results to create an ordered list of search results;
determining whether the search results in the ordered list of search results are from the particular country;
adjusting the order of one of the search results among other ones of the search results to create an adjusted list of search results when the one of the search results is from the particular country; [[and]]
presenting the adjusted list of search results; and
permitting the user to toggle between presentation of the adjusted list of search results and the ordered list of search results.

25. (currently amended) A system implemented within a computing device, comprising:
- a memory to store instructions for implementing:
 - a parser receiving a search query from a user;
 - an indexer:
 - executing a search based on the search query, and
 - identifying search results from a plurality of countries based on the search; [[and]]
 - a country promoter:

identifying a particular country applicable to the search results based on interface characteristics and Internet protocol (IP) characteristics,

where the interface characteristics include information from the search query and information from a user interface via which the search query is received, and

where the IP characteristics include information associated with a location from which the search query was sent, ordering the search results to create an ordered list of search results, and

adjusting the ordering of at least one of the search results among other ones of the search results to create an adjusted list of search results based on whether the at least one of the search results is from the particular country; and

a presenter permitting the user to toggle between presentation of the adjusted list of search results and the ordered list of search results; and
a processor to execute the instructions in the memory.

39. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 25, ~~where the memory further stores instructions for implementing:~~

[[a]] the presenter presenting presents the search results in the adjusted list.

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42. (currently amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a search query from a user;

executing a search to create a list of search results by evaluating the search query against information from a plurality of search result countries that is maintained in a searchable data repository;

determining a particular country applicable to search results generated responsive to the executed search based on interface characteristics and Internet protocol (IP) characteristics,

where the interface characteristics include information from the search query and information from a user interface via which the search query is received, and

where the IP characteristics include information associated with a location from which the search query was sent;

determining whether each of the search results are from the particular country;

[[and]]

ordering one of the search results among other ones of the search results based on whether the one of the search results is from the particular country; and

permitting the user to toggle between presentation of the list of search results with the one of the search results ordered among the other ones of the search results based on whether the one of the search results is from the particular country, and presentation of the list of search results without the one of the search results ordered

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among the other ones of the search results based on whether the one of the search results is from the particular country.

61. (currently amended) A system implemented within a computing device, comprising:

a memory to store instructions for implementing:

a parser receiving a search query request message from a user, and parsing at least one of terms or attributes from the search query request message to identify Web content provided from a plurality of search result countries;

an indexer executing a search by evaluating the at least one of terms or attributes against information maintained in a searchable data repository and generating search results responsive to the executed search;

a country promoter identifying a particular country, comprising:

a country determiner evaluating characteristics of the search query request message and characteristics of the search results, and selecting the particular country based on interface characteristics and Internet protocol (IP) characteristics,

where the interface characteristics include information from the search query message and information from a user interface via which the search query message is received, and

where the IP characteristics include information associated with a location from which the search query message was sent; and
a country orderer determining an order for at least some of the search results among other ones of the search results based on whether the at least some of the search results are from the particular country; and a presenter permitting the user to toggle between presentation of the search results in the determined order and presentation of the search results in another order that is independent of whether the at least some of the search results are from the particular country; and
a processor to execute the instructions in the memory.

69. (currently amended) A method, comprising:
receiving a search query request message from a user, and parsing at least one of terms or attributes from the search query request message to identify Web content provided from a plurality of search result countries;
executing a search by evaluating the at least one of terms or attributes against information maintained in a searchable data repository and generating search results responsive to the executed search;
determining a particular country, comprising:
evaluating characteristics of the search query request message and characteristics of the search results; and

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selecting the particular country based on interface characteristics and Internet protocol (IP) characteristics,

where the interface characteristics include information from the search query message and information from a user interface via which the search query message is received, and

where the IP characteristics include information associated with a location from which the search query message was sent;

determining an order for the search results among other ones of the search results based on whether the search results are from the particular country; [[and]]

presenting the search results in the determined order; and

permitting the user to toggle between presentation of the search results in the determined order and presentation of the search results in another order that is independent of whether the search results are from the particular country.

90. (currently amended) A computer-readable ~~memory device comprising~~ storage medium storing computer-executable instructions, comprising:

one or more instructions for receiving a search query from a user via a user interface;

one or more instructions for executing a search to generate search results from a plurality of countries;

one or more instructions for determining a particular country, comprising:

one or more instructions for evaluating characteristics of the search query and characteristics of the user interface, where the characteristics of the search query differ from the characteristics of the user interface; and

one or more instructions for selecting the particular country based on interface characteristics and Internet protocol (IP) characteristics,

where the interface characteristics include information from the search query and information from a user interface via which the search query is received, and

where the IP characteristics include information associated with a location from which the search query was sent;

one or more instructions for ordering at least some of the search results among other ones of the search results based on whether the at least some of the search results are from the particular country; [[and]]

one or more instructions for presenting the ordered search results; and
one or more instructions for permitting the user to toggle between presentation of the ordered search results and presentation of the search results in another order that is independent of whether the at least some of the search results are from the particular country.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 12, 18-22, 25, 29-33, 35-40, 42, 45-50, 53-58, 61, 64-69, 72-76, 79, 90 are allowed. (Renumbered as 1-45)

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art of record does not teach the combination of claimed elements including: "identifying a particular country for the search results based on interface characteristic and Internet protocol characteristics, where the interface characteristics include information from the search query and information from a user interface, where the IP characteristics include information associated with a location from which the search query was sent." The closest reference, Zha et al., teaches a method for associating documents with classification values and ranking documents based on classification weights. Zha however does not identify a particular country for the search results based on different characteristics recited in independent claims 12, 25, 42, 61, 69, 79, 90. Further, Zha does not teach "permitting the user to toggle between presentation of the adjusted list of search results and the ordered list of search result" as claimed.

Thus, prior art of record neither renders obvious nor anticipates the combination of claimed elements in light of the specification. After a further search and a thorough examination of the present application and in light of the prior art made of record, claims 12, 25, 42, 61, 69, 79, 90 are allowed. Dependent claims are allowed at least by virtue of their dependency from pertinent independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khanh B. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-4116. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

June 30, 2008

/Khanh B. Pham/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2166